

National Pony Express Association - Nebraska

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National Pony Express Association
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Pony Express Annual Re-Ride Gallops Across Nebraska, June 18 - 20

Pollock Pines, CA – May 20, 2025 — The Pony Express National Re-Ride, an annual tribute to the legendary mail service of 1860–1861, gallops into Nebraska on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**, as the **Wyoming Division hands off the mochila** (the leather mail pouch) to the **Nebraska Division at Lyman, NE**. This spirited reenactment, celebrating the daring young riders and historic trail, will carry the mail eastward through Nebraska, highlighting key heritage stops before handing off to the Kansas Division at the state line.

This year's ride, running 24 hours a day in true Pony Express fashion, retraces the original 1,966-mile route from **St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California**, over a 10-day span. Riders relay the mochila on horseback, carrying commemorative letters and honoring one of America's most iconic mail delivery systems.

Nebraska Route Highlights:

- **Lyman, NE (June 18)**
Wednesday, June 18 | Approx. 2:30 PM MDT
Handoff point from Wyoming Division. A ceremonial exchange marks the start of Nebraska's leg of the journey.
- **Scottsbluff National Monument**
Wednesday, June 18 | Approx. 4:45 PM MDT
Riders pass through this historic landmark that once guided pioneers and Pony Express riders alike.
- **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**
Wednesday, June 18 | Approx. 7:15 PM MDT
The iconic natural formation serves as a dramatic backdrop for the route and a photo opportunity steeped in western lore.
- **Colorado Division carries the Mochila from Chappell to Big Springs**
Thursday, June 19 | Approx. 2:30 AM MDT To Thursday, June 19 | Approx. 6:00 AM MDT
- **Tri-Tracks Park, Ogallala**
Thursday, June 19 | Approx. 8:30 AM MDT

A celebration and educational event is planned here as riders arrive, showcasing Nebraska's deep ties to pioneer trails, including the Pony Express, Oregon Trail, and Texas Trail.

- **Time Change from MDT to CDT**

- **Midway Ranch (south of Gothenburg)**

Thursday, June 19 | Approx. 8:30 PM CDT

A significant midway point through the state. Riders are expected to pass through during the night, maintaining the non-stop tradition.

- **Fort Kearny State Historical Park**

Friday, June 20 | Approx. 4:45 AM CDT

A scheduled daylight stop allows the public to witness the mochila exchange and learn more about Fort Kearny's pivotal role in 19th-century frontier communication.

- **Oak**

Friday, June 20 | Approx. 2:00 PM CDT

A welcoming community with local celebrations honoring the history of the Pony Express.

- **Rock Creek Station State Historical Park**

Friday, June 20 | Approx. 8:15 PM CDT

Once a Pony Express station, now a living history site, Rock Creek offers a step back into the 1860s. Riders are expected to arrive here in the early morning hours.

- **Nebraska-Kansas State Line (June 20)**

Friday, June 20 | Approx. 10:00 PM CDT

The Nebraska Division passes the mochila to the Kansas Division, continuing the eastbound journey toward St. Joseph.

Follow the Ride:

Spectators and history enthusiasts are encouraged to follow along the route, attend events at the featured stops, and experience a living piece of American history in motion. Schedules are approximate and subject to change based on weather and trail conditions.

About the National Pony Express Association (NPEA):

The **NPEA** is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of the Pony Express. Through education, reenactments, and community events, the NPEA keeps the spirit of the Old West alive for generations to come.

About the Pony Express Annual Re-Ride

The **Annual Re-Ride** is a living history event that celebrates the legacy of the **Pony Express**, which operated from **April 1860 to October 1861**. Though short-lived, the service became legendary for its daring riders, rugged terrain, and commitment to fast mail delivery across a developing nation. Spanning over **1,800 miles** across **eight states**, the **Pony Express Re-Ride** is a 24/7 non-stop relay involving hundreds of riders and horses. Commemorative letters are carried in a mochila, just as they were over 160 years ago. The re-ride is both a living history experience and a logistical achievement, preserving the spirit of the original Pony Express.

"This event bridges generations and geography," said Petra Keller, Corresponding Secretary, National Pony Express Association. "We ride to honor those fearless messengers of the past and to keep their memory alive for future generations."

Public Welcome!

Spectators are encouraged to attend the mochila exchanges, meet the riders, take photos, and engage with local Pony Express volunteers at each major stop. Forts and interpretive centers along the route will offer special programs and trail information.

Follow the ride live via GPS tracking at <https://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/>. Spectators are welcome at various handoff points and historical landmarks.

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Media Kit (incl. High-resolution photos): <https://nationalponyexpress.org/news/media-press/>

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